

Caribou County

September 2020

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Workforce Trends

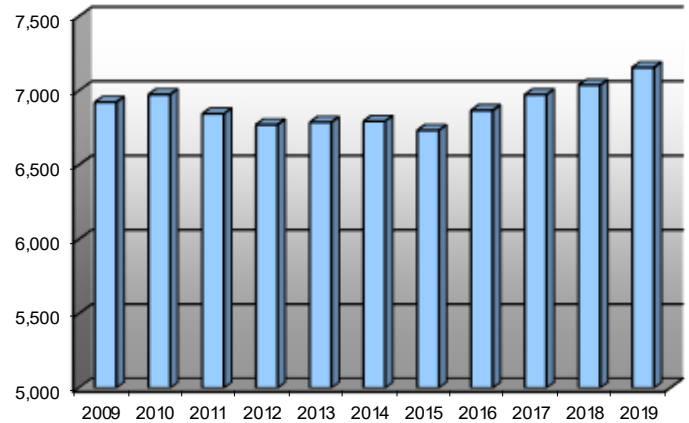
Population

History, scenery, recreation and industry have marked Caribou County from its onset — wide open spaces, friendly people and a place to have fun.

The 2019 Census population estimates for the county was 7,155, an increase of 233 from 2009. Over this time, population has fluctuated peaking in 2010 followed by some decrease. The 2019 population is the highest the county has experienced. The county's largest city, Soda Springs, had an estimated population of 3,023 in 2019.

The county is at the hub of the Pioneer Historic Byway and the Caribou Scenic Byway, which bring in tourists. Soda Springs, named for its natural carbonated springs, has a geyser which erupts every hour on the hour. The county is also home to phosphate mining and processing, which helps the population enjoy a higher average wage than most other counties in Idaho.

Population



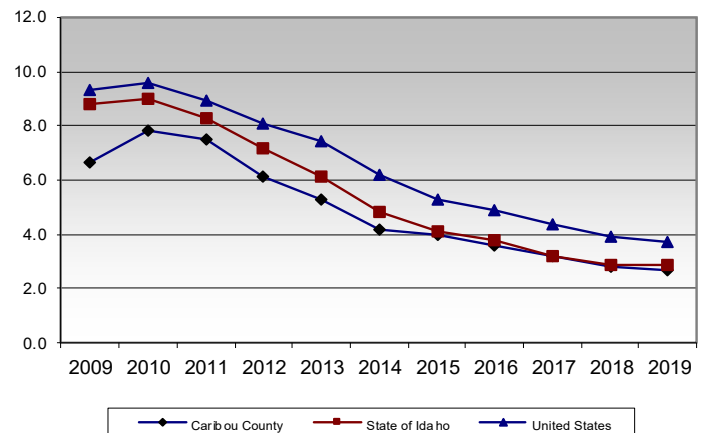
Labor Force & Employment

Caribou County has a highly skilled work force with an excellent work ethic, which has been recognized nationally through exceptional safety records. The county's economy depends heavily on agriculture, phosphate mining and manufacturing. During the last decade, the civilian labor force followed employment. From an all-time low of 2.9 percent in 2007, the unemployment rate rose to a high of 7.8 percent in 2010 and has been in steady decline since then. In 2019, the average annual unemployment rate dropped to 2.7 percent.

The county is known for its scenic beauty. Efforts to attract more tourism have helped diversify the economy through the addition of several service and trade businesses.

Because the county heavily depends on natural resource-based industries — agriculture and mining — along

Unemployment Rates



with manufacturing, both population and employment are influenced by the national economy. Following national trends, mining jobs declined significantly during the 1990s and again in 2008. The expansion of the Dry Canyon phosphate mine operated by the J.R. Simplot Co. and the operational change at Agrium's mine are contributing to labor stability. The increase of mining and gas and oil exploration help a wide variety of industries in the county, state and across the border into Wyoming, Utah and Montana.

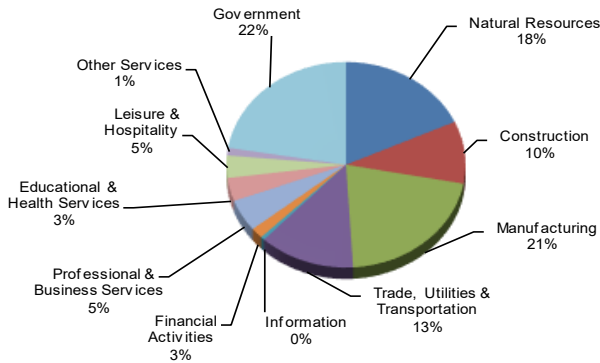
Labor Force	Aug 19	Aug 20
Civilian Labor Force	4,178	4,179
Total Employment	4,064	4,068
Unemployed	114	111
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	2.7
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	4.2
U.S. % Unemployed	3.7	8.4

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	3,464	3,841	3,885	3,973	3,899	3,851	3,766	3,801	3,863	3,871	4,135
Unemployment	231	300	290	242	206	162	152	137	122	110	110
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	7.8	7.5	6.1	5.3	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.7
Employment	3,233	3,541	3,595	3,731	3,693	3,689	3,614	3,664	3,741	3,761	4,025

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Industry Employment and Wages

Nearly half the jobs in Caribou County involve the production of fertilizer, phosphorus and weed killer. While mining and construction accounted for 27 percent of employment, manufacturing accounted for 20 percent and paid the best wages.

Government is the county's largest industry sector, providing 21 percent of covered jobs.

Wages in Caribou County are higher than most of the state because of phosphate mining and manufacturing. The average annual covered wage in Caribou County is \$54,0920. The per capita income in Caribou County is about 9 percent lower than the statewide average.

Major Employers (Private)

Agrium U.S., Inc.
Broulim's
Degerstrom-Dravo
J.R. Simplot Co., Smoky Mine
Kiewit
Mark III
Monsanto Company
Mullen Crane & Transport

Southeast Idaho Occupational Wages*	Entry Wages	Median Wages
Cashiers	\$8.50	\$10.67
Clerks, General Office	\$10.61	\$15.15
Construction Laborers	\$11.00	\$15.08
Cook, Restaurant	\$9.47	\$12.08
Fast Food & Counter Workers	\$8.54	\$10.15
Janitors & Cleaners	\$9.14	\$11.95
Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	\$8.55	\$10.52
Registered Nurses	\$25.47	\$32.27
Retail Salesperson	\$9.61	\$13.35
Shipping, Receiving, & Inventory Clerks	\$11.98	\$16.59
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	\$10.30	\$13.80
Teachers, Elementary	\$37,910	\$55,360
Teachers, Secondary	\$34,030	\$47,820

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	3,208	\$42,015	3,311	\$54,463	3,584	\$54,920
Agriculture	104	\$22,409	141	\$34,682	135	\$32,902
Mining	317	\$57,170	417	\$71,119	629	\$78,150
Construction	291	\$55,365	340	\$55,512	340	\$55,716
Manufacturing	715	\$75,516	715	\$95,519	731	\$85,033
Trade, Utilities & Transportation	469	\$25,734	427	\$36,917	443	\$38,266
Information	20	\$14,691	15	\$21,004	18	\$31,049
Financial Activities	112	\$29,724	54	\$38,326	57	\$34,868
Professional and Business Services	170	\$27,923	175	\$43,967	174	\$47,216
Educational and Health Services	87	\$16,273	128	\$23,020	127	\$25,555
Leisure and Hospitality	176	\$8,391	129	\$14,429	121	\$14,903
Other Services	53	\$18,876	42	\$24,065	41	\$25,624
Government	694	\$28,648	729	\$37,024	769	\$36,909

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Caribou County	\$32,531	\$30,822	\$34,040	\$36,282	\$36,488	\$36,551	\$37,896	\$37,372	\$37,788	\$39,146
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis

This county is served by the office listed below:
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labor.idaho.gov

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